Amendments to the Claims

1. (original) Telecommunications services apparatus for use with a telephone network, the apparatus comprising:

means operable to support execution of one or more messaging applications, wherein an application may be executed for each of any or all messages that arrive at the apparatus;

means for storing message attributes matched to respective messaging applications;

means for comparing, for each message, an attribute of that message with the stored message attributes, and operable thereby to select the respective messaging application on the basis of the comparison; and

means for executing the selected messaging application, execution of the selected application including processing, transforming and/or routing the respective message.

2. (original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the message attributes include destination address.

3. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the message attributes include destination address type.

4. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the message attributes include originating address.

5. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the message attributes include originating address type.

6. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the message attributes include signalling fields.

7. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the message attributes include message content.

8. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, comprising at least one SMS router for routing messages to the means operable to support execution of one or more messaging applications.

9. (original) Apparatus according to claim 8, including an SMS service control point (SCP) such that service logic may operate in the SMS router in conjunction with centralised intelligence in the SMS SCP.

10. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a message transformation means for parsing, interpreting and transforming message content and addressing in order to generate a response message.

11. (original) Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the response message is generated according to a programmable table of exceptions.

12. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the response message is routed via the SMS router.

13. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the message from the sender is in mobile originated form, whereas the response message is in mobile terminated form.

14. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the response message is routed over a data network.

15. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the message transformation means is operable to return a response message back to the original sender without requiring a routing query to a home location register (HLR), the response addressing and routing information being derived from the original message.

16-18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the routing query is an SRI-SM MAP message.

20. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the routing information obtained from the original message is in the form of an international mobile subscriber identifier (IMSI) and a visitor location register (VLR) address corresponding to the sender's location.

21. (original) A telecommunications services method for a telephone network, the method comprising:

supporting execution of one or more messaging applications, wherein an application may be executed for each of any or all input messages;

storing message attributes matched to respective messaging applications;

comparing, for each message, an attribute of that message with the stored message attributes, and thereby selecting the respective messaging application on the basis of the comparison; and

executing the selected messaging application, execution of the selected application including processing, transforming and/or routing the respective message.

22. (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the message attributes include destination address.

23. (previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the message attributes include destination address type.

24. (previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the message attributes include originating address.

25. (previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the message attributes include originating address type.

26. (previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the message attributes include signalling fields.

27. (previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the message attributes include message content.

28. (previously presented) A method according to claim 21, including routing messages via at least one SMS router for execution of one or more messaging applications.

29. (original) A method according to claim 28, wherein service logic may operate in the SMS router in conjunction with centralised intelligence in an SMS service control point (SCP).

30. (previously presented) A method according to claim 21, comprising a message transformation step for parsing, interpreting and transforming message content and addressing in order to generate a response message.

31. (original) A method according to claim 30, wherein the response message is generated according to a programmable table of exceptions.

32. (previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein the response message is routed via the SMS router.

33. (previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein the message from the sender is in mobile originated form, whereas the response message is in mobile terminated form.

34. (previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein the response message is routed over a data network.

35. (previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein the message transformation step is operable to return a response message back to the original sender without requiring a routing query to a home location register (HLR), the response addressing and routing information being derived from the original message.

36-38. (cancelled)

39. (previously presented) A method according to claim 35, wherein the routing query is an SRI-SM MAP message.

40. (previously presented) A method according to claim 35, wherein the routing information obtained from the original message is in the form of an international mobile subscriber identifier (IMSI) and a visitor location register (VLR) address corresponding to the sender's location.

41. (previously presented) A computer program for implementing a method according to claim 21.

42. (original) A storage medium storing a computer program according to claim 41.